

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BELGRA 06540 300835Z
ACTION SS-15

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SY-05 OIC-02 SSO-00 SYE-00
/035 W

-----106296 300841Z /21
O 300703Z SEP 77
FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2599

C O N F I D E N T I A L BELGRADE 6540

FOR DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY FOR MANAGEMENT FROM CSCE ADVANCE-
SWOPE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ASEC, OCON, YO
SUBJECT: BELGRADE CSCE: MSG AUGMENTATION

REF: STATE 233468

1. WE RECOGNIZE THAT AMBASSADOR EAGLEBURGER CURRENTLY IS IN WASHINGTON AND WILL BE CONTACTED CONCERNING THE DECISION OF ASSIGNING MSG SECURITY TO AMBASSADOR GOLDBERG'S RESIDENCE. HOWEVER, THE EMBASSY CONSIDERS THAT CERTAIN LOCAL CONCERNS SHOULD BE PROVIDED FOR CONSIDERATION.

2. A TWENTY-FOUR HOUR SHIFT CANNOT BE PROPERLY MANNED BY THREE MARINES. EMBASSY CANNOT REPEAT NOT SUPPLY ADDITIONAL MARINE FROM ITS DETACHMENT. FURTHERMORE, GIVEN THE PHYSICAL LOCATION AND LAYOUT OF THE GUEST HOUSE ANY MARINE EITHER WALKING OR IN PLACE, INSIDE OR OUTSIDE WOULD BE OF LIMITED EFFECTIVENESS. THE BUILDING HAS TWO ENTRANCES THAT COULD NOT BE GUARDED AT THE SAME TIME. A MARINE LOCATED INSIDE THE BUILDING WOULD NOT BE IN A POSITION TO MAINTAIN FULL SURVEILLANCE OF ANY LOCAL STAFF WORKING IN THE BUILDING.

3. THE RESIDENCE IS LOCATED VERY CLOSE (LESS THAN ONE QUARTER
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MILE) TO THE BELGRADE RESIDENCE OF PRESIDENT TITO; AS SUCH, THE ENTIRE AREA IS CAREFULLY GUARDED BY ARMED YUGOSLAV MILITA. BECAUSE OF THE LOCATION, THE YUGOSLAV AUTHORITIES ARE VERY SENSITIVE ABOUT ANYTHING THAT COULD BE CONSTRUED AS WEAPONS. YUGOSLAV AUTHORITIES DENIED PERMISSION TO HAVE FIRECRACKERS SHOT OFF AT THE RESIDENCE FOR A JULY FOURTH CELEBRATION IN 1976. MSG REGULATIONS (MSG HANDBOOK 804.4) FURTHERMORE REQUIRE THAT

A WEAPON SHOULD NOT BE FIRED IF THE ROUND WOULD GO OFF U.S. PROPERTY, OR IN ANY WAY ENDANGER A CIVILIAN. OBVIOUSLY THE EFFECTIVENESS OF WEAPONS IS SEVERELY LIMITED AND WITHOUT A WEAPON THE EFFECTIVENESS OF A MSG WOULD BE LIMITED. WE WOULD, IN ANY EVENT, HESITATE TO INTORDUCE WEAPONS INTO THE RESIDENCE COMPOUND WITHOUT SEEKING YUGOSLAV APPROVAL. PHYSICAL LOCATION OF THE MARINE POSES QUESTIONS. IF INDOORS, THERE IS NO EASY WAY FOR MARINE TO PROVIDE USEFUL COVERAGE WITHOUT INTRUDING ON THE GOLDBERGS' PRIVACY. IF OUTSIDE, A ROVING POST WILL BE INCREASINGLY DIFFICULT TO SUSTAIN FOR FULL SHIFTS IN WORSENING WEATHER, WHILE A BOOTH HAS SERIOUS LIMITATIONS.

4. THE EMBASSY PRESUMES THAT YUGOSLAV AUTHORITIES WILL PROVIDE ADDITIONAL SECURITY AROUND THE RESIDENCE. PLACING MARINE GUARDS WOULD IMPLY THAT THE YUGOSLAVS AS HOST GOVERNMENT ARE UNABLE TO PROVIDE ADEQUATE SECURITY FOR A PERSON OF AMBASSADOR GOLDBERG'S STATURE.
WORTZEL

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